

Chapter 1: Introduction

Monroe County, Florida, and its incorporated municipalities of the Village of Islamorada, City of Layton, City of Key Colony Beach, City of Marathon, and the City of Key West, undertook development of this revised *Local Mitigation Strategy* (LMS) because of its awareness that natural and man-made hazards, especially hurricane and flooding hazards, may affect many people and property. The LMS is a requirement associated with receipt of certain federal mitigation grant program funds administered by the Florida Department of Community Affairs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

1.1 Authority

The Board of County Commissioners directed the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to coordinate with other appropriate departments and agencies, and the cities of Key West, Marathon, Key Colony Beach, Layton, and Islamorada, to facilitate the development of the LMS in conformance with state and federal guidelines.

The LMS revision was prepared to comply with the Florida Department of Community Affairs' requirements (Florida Administrative Code Chapter 9G-22) and the provisions of the federal Hazard Mitigation and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs (44 CFR Parts 201 and 206), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (44 CFR 78.6). Communities and the non-profit organizations located in them must participate in a mitigation planning process that results in an adopted strategy that is approved by FEMA in order to qualify for certain federal mitigation funds.

Florida Administrative Code Chapter 9G-22 sets forth the composition and responsibilities of the LMS Working Groups. In particular, Work Groups are to develop and revise the LMS, set the order of priority of projects submitted for funding, and submit an annual report. The minimum contents of the LMS are specified and include a number of provisions that are not explicitly set forth in federal requirements.

1.2 Work Group Membership

The LMS Work Group was established in 1998 pursuant to authorization by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). It has met periodically since then, convening on February 15, 2005 for the specific purpose of initiating the revision of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS).

The Work Group includes representatives from all incorporated municipalities in Monroe County. Prior to the 1999 LMS, Work Group Agreements were established between

Monroe County and the municipalities. The City of Marathon joined upon its incorporation in late 1999.

Representatives from following are designated members of the Work Group:

- Monroe County, Emergency Management (Chairman)
- Monroe County, Growth Management
- Monroe County, Health Department
- Monroe County School System and Public Board of Education
- Monroe County, Grants Coordinator
- Monroe County Extension Service
- City of Layton, City Administrator
- Village of Islamorada, Fire Chief
- City of Key Colony Beach, Building Official
- City of Key West, Assistant Engineer
- City of Marathon, City Planner
- Monroe County, Historic Florida Keys Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity of Key West and Lower Florida Keys
- City Electric
- FL Keys Electric Cooperative
- FL Keys Aqueduct Authority

The following were notified and invited to review and comment on the LMS before it was finalized:

- Florida Department of Community Affairs
- Miami-Dade County and Collier County
- Florida Keys Community College
- Rotary Club
- Salvation Army
- Florida Keys Employment and Training Council
- Paradise Interfaith Network
- Innerspace Dive/FL Seacamp
- Monroe County Association for Retarded Citizen's
- American Red Cross
- Marathon Chamber of Commerce

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- Century 21
 - FL Keys Citizens Coalition
 - State Representative Ken Sorensen, District 120
 - Office of Congressional Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, 18th District

1.3 Acknowledgments

The revised LMS was supported by a planning grant administered by the Florida Department of Community Affairs using funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The revised 2005 LMS was prepared with the support of RCQuinn Consulting, Inc., Annapolis, MD. The 1999 LMS was prepared with the support of Janice Drawing Consulting, Inc. of Plantation Key, Florida.

1.4 Key Terms

For the most part, terms used in the Plan have the meanings that are commonly associated with them:

- **Disaster** means the occurrence of widespread or severe damage, injury, loss of life or property, or such severe economic or social disruption that supplemental disaster relief assistance is necessary for the affected political jurisdiction(s) to recover and to alleviate the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.
- **Floodplain:** See “Flood Hazard Area”.
- **Hazard** is defined as the natural or technological phenomenon, event, or physical condition that has the potential to cause property damage, infrastructure damage, other physical losses, and injuries and fatalities.
- **Mitigation** is defined as actions taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from hazards. Mitigation actions are intended to reduce the need for emergency response – as opposed to improving the ability to respond.
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**, located within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (FEMA), is charged with preparing Flood Insurance Rate Maps, developing regulations to guide development, and providing insurance for flood damage.
- **Risk** is defined as the potential losses associated with a hazard. Ideally, risk is defined in terms of expected probability and frequency of the hazard occurring, people and property exposed, and potential consequences.

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- **Flood Hazard Area or Floodplain** is the area adjoining a river, stream, shoreline, or other body of water that is subject to partial or complete inundation. The area predicted to flood during the 1% annual chance flood is commonly called the “100-year” flood.

1.5 Acronyms

The following acronyms are used in the document:

- **CRS** – Community Rating System (NFIP)
- **DCA** – Florida Department of Community Affairs
- **FEMA** – U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (FEMA)
- **FIRM** – Flood Insurance Rate Map
- **FMA** – Flood Mitigation Assistance (FEMA)
- **GIS** – Geographic Information System
- **HMGP** – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (FEMA)
- **LMS** – Local Mitigation Strategy
- **NFIP** – National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA)
- **PDM** – Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program
- **ROGO** – Rate of Growth Ordinance
- **TAOS** – The Arbiter of Storms

1.6 References

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